

BULLETIN 70

Revised JULY 1953

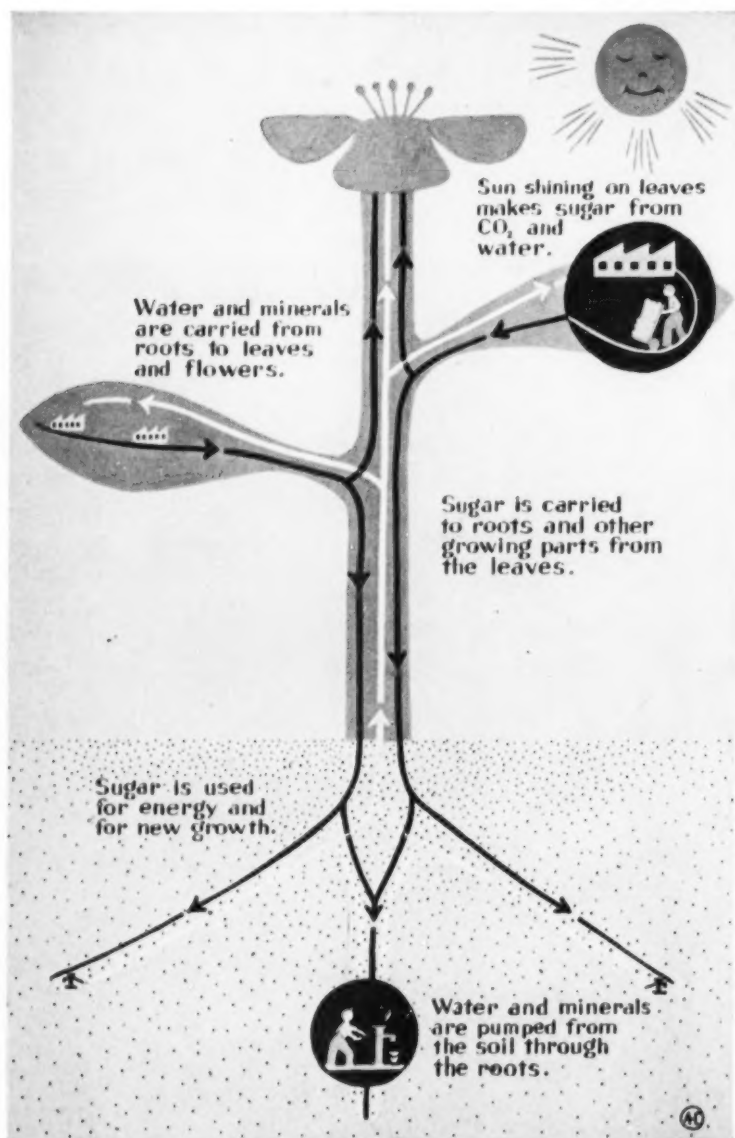
INDOOR GARDENING

KENNETH POST



Cornell 4-H Club Bulletin

THIS IS HOW PLANTS FUNCTION



Indoor Gardening

KENNETH POST

YOU too can have growing plants in a bright window during the winter if they get sunlight part of the day and are watered regularly.

FLOWERING PLANTS

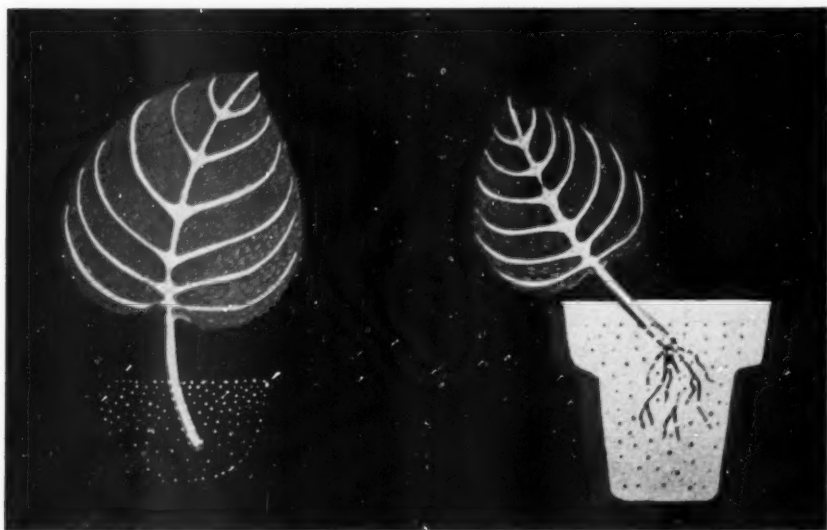
YOU can grow flowering plants in a window that receives the morning sun and is not shaded by trees or curtains.

The *African violet* is especially easy to grow because you can start with a leaf and a small piece of stem attached to it. Root this in a pot in sand. Pot it in soil as soon as it has rooted.

Do not let the room get colder than

60° F., and be sure to keep the soil moist. The plant will have beautiful blue flowers after about four months. It continues to flower after it once starts.

Perhaps you can get a small shoot from a *Christmas cactus*. It produces deep pink flowers from the edges of the leaves. Flowers first appear soon after Christmas, and new ones keep

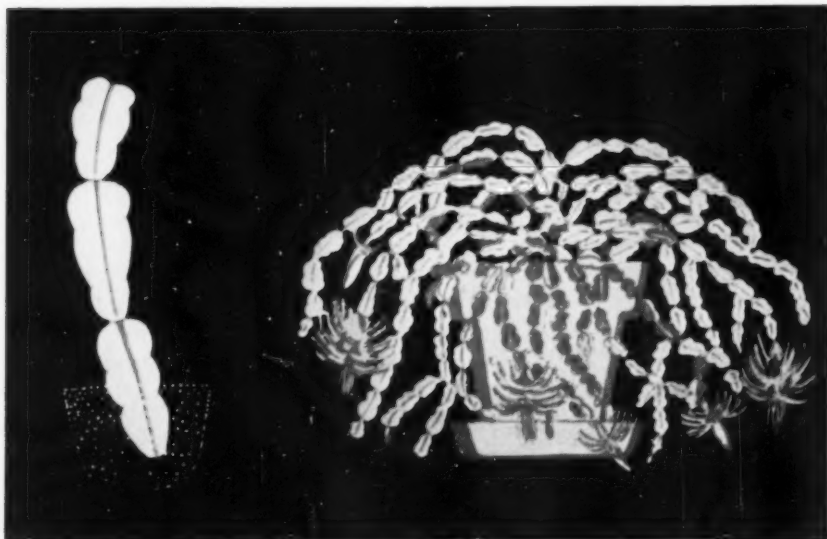


AFRICAN VIOLET

Left, cutting in sand. Right, cutting in soil.

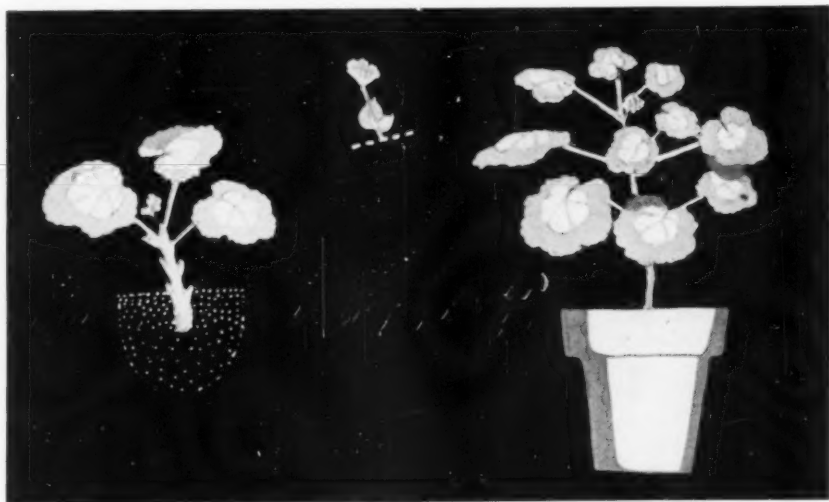
opening until Easter. Keep the plant watered during the summer and it will flower again the next year.

Take a shoot from a *geranium* plant in September and root it in a pot or in a glass of water in the window. Pot



CHRISTMAS CACTUS

Left, cutting in sand. Right, mature plant



GERANIUM POTTED IN SAND

Left, cutting in sand. Center, pinched tip. Right, potted plant



Vriesea speciosa



Caladium bicolor



Hoffmannia refulgens



Sansevieria Hahnii

EXOTIC PLANTS THAT WILL GROW BEST IN GOOD LIGHT AND SOME SUN

it in soil after it roots. Pinch the tip from it when two or three new leaves have formed. Pinching causes the plant to branch and to produce a

bushy plant. Geraniums grow best in a south window where they get lots of sun.



Begonia versicolor



Episcia fulgida

FLOWERING PLANTS WITH ATTRACTIVE FOLIAGE

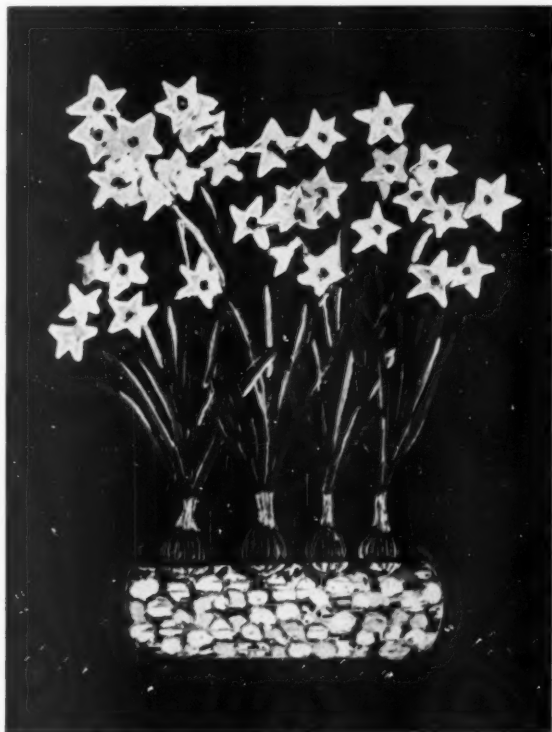
BULBOUS PLANTS

You can grow several different kinds of bulbous plants.

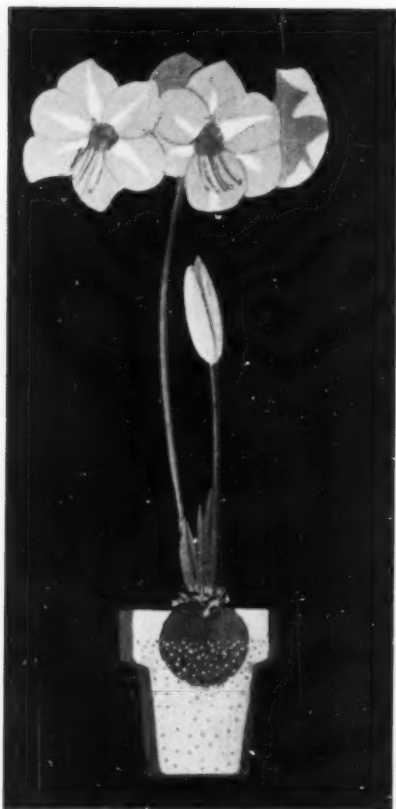
Paper white narcissi bulbs can be purchased in October. Plant them in gravel, soil, or what you have handy, and keep water in the container. Put them in a sunny window and your reward will be a cluster of pearly white flowers in December.

The *amaryllis bulb* can be purchased

in January. This should be potted in soil. The flower bud starts immediately and produces large pink, red, or white lily-like flowers before the leaves are full-grown. Be careful not to plant the bulb more than two-thirds under the soil. Keep it growing after it flowers. Keep the plant growing through the summer, and it will flower the next year.



PAPER WHITE NARCISSE IN PEBBLES, SHOWING DEPTH OF PLANTING



AMARYLLIS

The bulb is one-third above soil. The soil mixture is one-third sand, one-third soil, and one-third manure.



The *gloxinia* bulb-like structure can be planted during April. It sends forth leaves and velvety flowers, the shape of large morning-glories. Put it in a window where it gets the morning sun. It is best watered with a wick.

HARDY BULBS

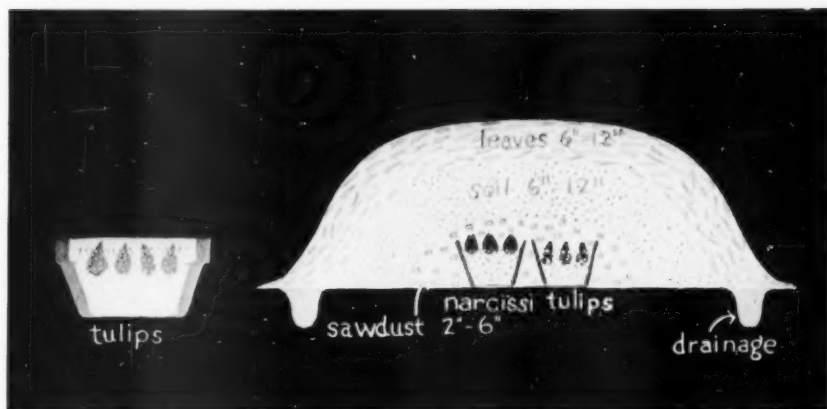
TULIPS, narcissi, crocuses, snowdrops, and all the other hardy bulbs flower in the house during January, February, and March. Pot the bulbs in October and store them in the basement with the potatoes. Be sure to water them once each week or more often if they need it. If the basement is not cool, store them outdoors in a pit.

Bring potted bulbs into the house in January and watch them stretch and flower in a sunny window.



GLOXINIA

Left, depth of planting. Right, wick watering



Left, DEPTH OF PLANTING. Right, STORAGE PIT FOR BULBS

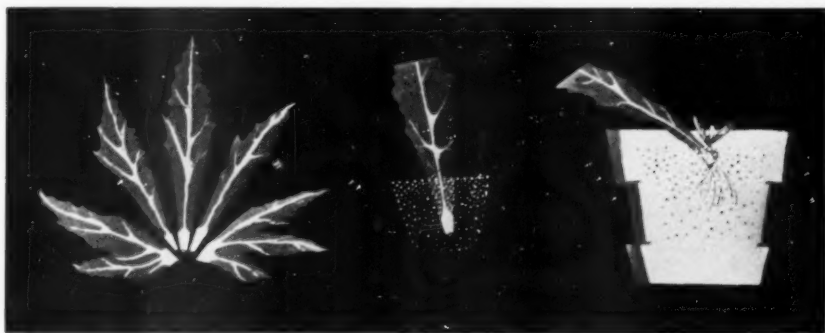
PLANTS THAT DO NOT FLOWER

Grow plants that do not flower if you have no sunny windows. They grow best where they get good light and some sun, but will grow with no sun.

You can start a *showy-leaved be-*

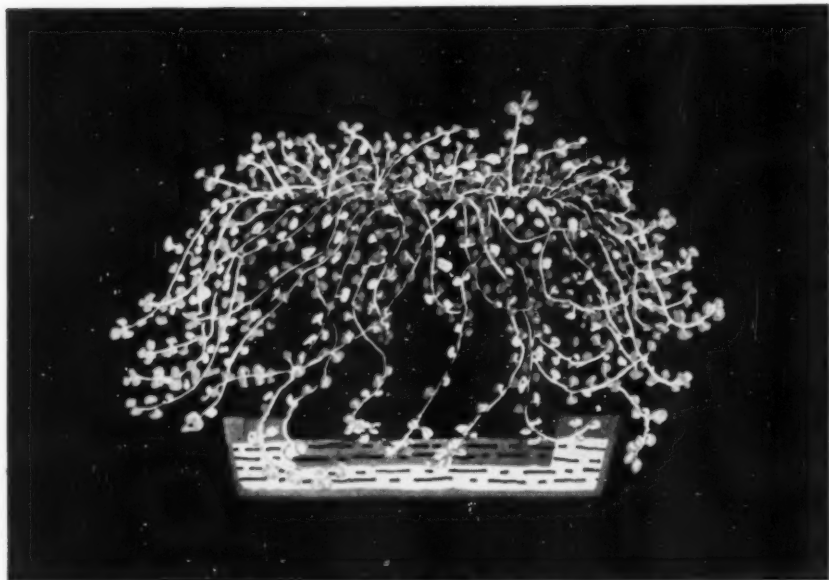
gonia from a leaf cutting. Sometimes they flower, but the leaves are most interesting. You can grow them in a north window.

Just put a piece of *baby's tears* in soil in a shallow dish and keep it very



SHOWY-LEAVED BEGONIA

Left, leaf cuttings. Center, depth in sand. Right, young plant starting from leaf cutting in soil

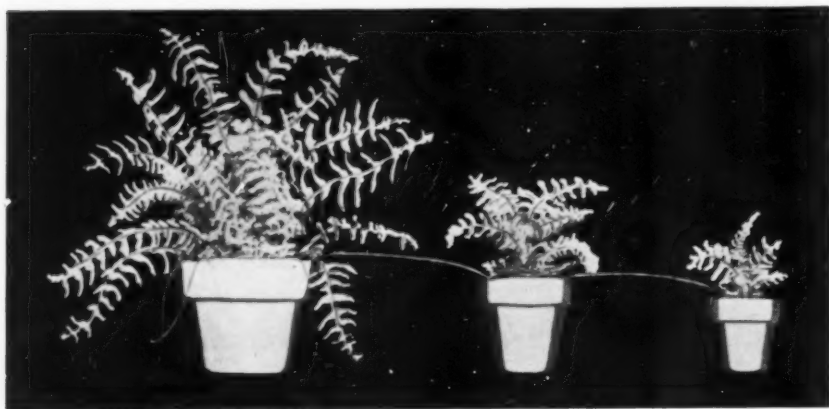


BABY'S TEARS IN A SHALLOW POT, WITH WATER IN THE SAUCER

moist by setting the container in a shallow saucer with water. Do not let it stay in the sun.

A small *Boston fern* soon outgrows

a small pot and must be transplanted. Grow it in a window where it gets some sun. New plants come from runners, as do strawberry plants.



BOSTON FERN, SHOWING RUNNERS AND FRONDS



Scindapsis pictus var. *argyraeus*



Philodendron sodiroi



Philodendron hastatum



Philodendron dubium (erroneous name)

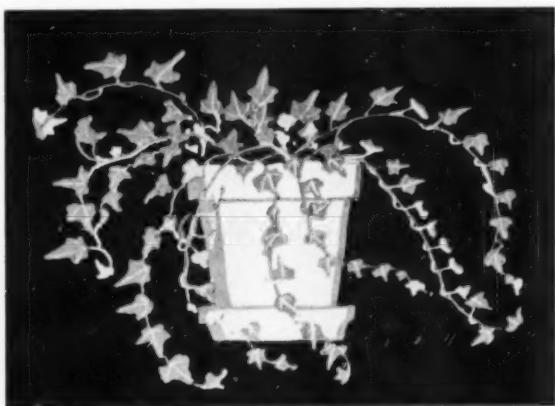
UPRIGHT GROWERS WHICH REQUIRE GOOD LIGHT BUT NOT DIRECT SUN



CHINESE WATER EVERGREEN IN WATER

You can grow *Chinese water evergreen* in a dish of water or in soil.

The sun does not have to shine directly on the leaves.



ENGLISH IVY IN POT

Root in a dish of water, a piece of *English ivy* from an older plant. Pot it in soil after it roots. It grows best in a window where it gets a little sun.

Use a four- or five-inch piece of *philodendron* and root it in a glass of water. Put it in soil after it roots. *Philodendron* needs no sunlight.



Cissus antarctica



Syngonium var. Marble queen



Cissus rhombifolia



Syngonium Tri-Leaf Wonder

VINES THAT GROW WELL IN POOR LIGHT



PHILODENDRON

HOW TO WATER PLANTS

YOU will be sure of having the soil just moist enough if you water all your plants with wicks. You can buy wicks of spun glass or you may make them from burlap. If you make them from burlap, renew them every two months because they rot. Take a piece of burlap 5 inches long and tie it in several places. Cut one end down from the top $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches and

flare the top. Push the tied end through the hole from the inside of the flower pot. Flatten the untied end on the inside bottom of the flower pot. Put soil or sand in the pot and no coarse material. Set the flower pot on a second container which has water in it all the time. The wick works like a lamp wick pulling water into the soil.



Maranta leuconeura var. *kerchoveana*



Dracaena deremensis var. *Warneckii*

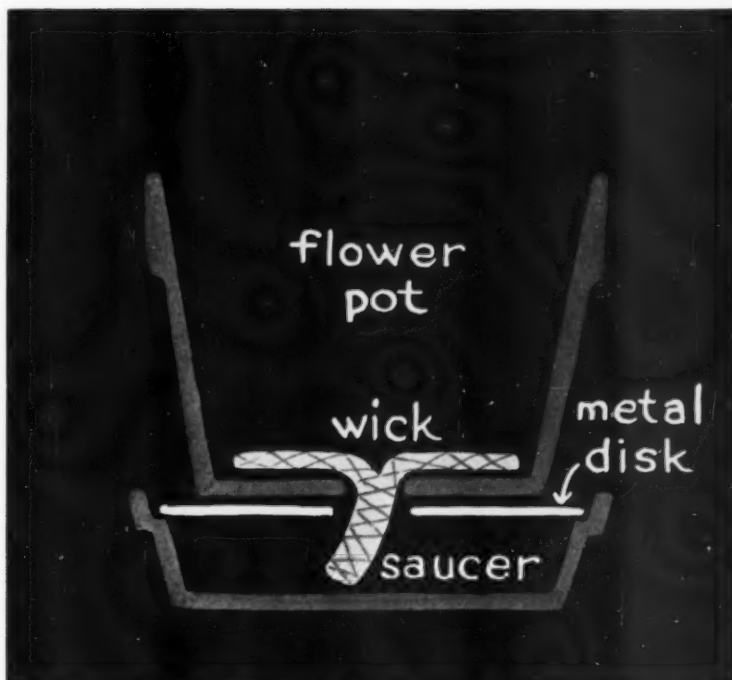


Ficus lyrata (*pandurata*)



Schismatoglottis *Robelinii*

FOLIAGE PLANTS WITH INTERESTING LEAVES THAT WILL GROW WITH NO SUN



WICK WATERING

References

- Care of Plants in the Home.* By Kenneth Post. Cornell Extension Bulletin 623. New York State College of Agriculture, Ithaca, New York.
- Plants and Flowers in the Home.* By Kenneth Post. 1944. Orange Judd Publishing Company, New York City.

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